

Julie L. Rehder
1413 Hattie Road
Apex, NC 27602

January 24, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Microsoft Case

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As a consultant, I need access to affordable and usable technology to keep pace in a competitive business. I use Microsoft software because it is dependable and cost effective. I do not have access to technical experts on a daily basis so problems caused by unreliable software would delay my work and create dissatisfaction among my clients.

I have been following the antitrust suit against Microsoft to see what impact the final settlement will have on consumers like me and on my clients who need easy access to reliable software. Microsoft has had a significant, positive influence on the growth and success of many small businesses and organizations.

It appears that the proposed settlement will provide a workable solution for consumers, computer makers, software developers and Microsoft. This solution seems fair to all parties. The consent decree allows computer manufacturers to adapt the Windows system so that other software programs that compete with Microsoft can be used. Features built into Windows will be easier to remove. Microsoft can continue with its efforts to develop new products that benefit consumers and the technology industry. I will continue to be a loyal customer and look forward to advancements made as a result of the proposed settlement.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this case.

Sincerely,



Julie L. Rehder